

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 30, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, January 28, I was unavoidably detained due to the inclement weather and was not present for votes on S. 1290, a bill to extend for 6 months the period for which chapter 12 of title 11 of the United States Code is reenacted. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Rollcall No. 10 and "nay" on Rollcall Nos. 8, 9, and 11.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 30, 2004

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I was unavoidably detained and missed the vote on the Baldwin of Wisconsin substitute amendment to S. 1920 (No. 8). I intended to vote "nay."

HONORING JOHN W. LAKE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 30, 2004

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Representative DOOLEY, Representative NUNES and myself, to honor John W. Lake on the occasion of his being distinguished as an Honorary Alumni Member of the California Agricultural Leadership Foundation's California Agricultural Leadership Program. This designation will be bestowed upon Mr. Lake at the annual conference of this organization.

Selection for this distinction is reserved for "special individuals who have, over a period of time, demonstrated consistent commitment and uncommon excellence in the furtherance of education and leadership in California agriculture." The mission of the California Agricultural Leadership Program is to enhance the long-term viability of California agriculture through leadership development, which in turn benefits the people and the communities that agriculture serves.

A native Californian, John graduated from the University of California, Santa Barbara in 1970 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mechanical Engineering. He also completed 1 year of graduate work in Mechanical Engineering at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. In 1974, Mr. Lake began his career with Rain for Rent, working his way through the Engineering and Manufacturing Departments and management of Lake and Lake International, irrigation sub-

sidaries of Western Oilfields Supply Company. He founded Lake Leasing Company in 1983, Rain for Rent's agricultural irrigation equipment financing division. John has served as President and Chief Executive Officer since April of 1990.

Since its beginning in 1934, Western Oilfields Supply Company/Rain for Rent has evolved and expanded in its product offering and the markets it services, providing solutions to temporary liquid-handling problems. Their products and services cover a wide variety of industries, including, but not limited to: construction, petro-chemical, municipal, environmental, agricultural, and other industrial businesses that are serviced by 47 branches and 650 professionals nationwide. During John's tenure as President, the company has expanded into the tank, pump and specialty rental markets.

Mr. Lake is active in the Cal Poly San Luis Obispo Advisory Council, the California Agricultural Leadership Program, the Fellowship of Companies for Christ International, Quest Club, Idaho Irrigation Association and Safari Club International. John and his wife, Sheila, have two sons and attend Fruitvale Community Church in Bakersfield, California.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with Representative DOOLEY and Representative NUNES to pay tribute to John W. Lake as an Honorary Alumni Member of the California Agricultural Leadership Foundation's California Agricultural Leadership Program. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing John many years of continued success.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PACIFIC INSULAR AREAS RURAL TELE-MEDICINE ACT

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 30, 2004

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Pacific Insular Areas Rural Telemedicine Act" to provide for better treatment of Guam, American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) in the health care service supports under the Communications Act of 1934, as amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996. This bill amends the Act to redesignate the "urban area" for Guam, American Samoa, and the CNMI to be Honolulu, Hawaii. This bill also seeks to define the maximum allowable distance for the Pacific Insular Areas to be the distance between the capital cities of each jurisdiction and Honolulu, Hawaii. Finally, this bill would specify that the urban rate to be used for rate comparison purposes for the rural health care support mechanism will be the urban rate for Hawaii.

The Rural Health Care Program (RHCP) is a universal service support mechanism that provides reduced rates to rural health care providers for telecommunications services re-

lated to the use of telemedicine and telehealth. Currently, the RHCP can fund up to \$400 million annually to ensure that rural health care providers pay no more than those in urban areas for the same or similar telecommunication services. This support is determined based on mileage or a comparison of urban and rural rates.

Under the mileage based support, the RHCP will pay the difference in charges between the standard urban distance (SUD) for each state and the maximum allowable distance (MAD). Under the urban/rural rate comparison, the RHCP will support the difference between the rural health care provider's charges and what the rural health care provider would have been charged if it were located in an urban area of the state.

The designation of an "urban area" and "rural area" determines which health care providers and carriers are eligible for support under the RHCP. In their initial rulemaking for the RHCP, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) designated the urban areas for these Pacific insular areas to be Tutuila in American Samoa, Agana in Guam, and Saipan in the CNMI. These designations were made despite the fact that none of these cities have a population of over 50,000, the threshold used by the FCC in making an urban area designation for a state. By defining the jurisdictions' capital cities as the "urban area" for the RHCP, the health care providers in these Pacific insular areas have been informed that the RHCP telecommunication discounts would only be applicable to interconnecting health care facilities in remote locations within their jurisdictions. For Guam, there are no health care facilities that would benefit from this definition. For American Samoa and the CNMI, the only health care facilities that would qualify are those located on remote islands within the political boundaries of their territories.

The health care providers in the Pacific insular areas reflect the size, remoteness, and economic status of their communities. They seek access to advanced medical facilities, specialists and health professions education programs to better serve their rural and remote communities. The populations of these Pacific insular areas are approximately 57,000 for American Samoa, 155,000 for Guam, and 69,000 for the CNMI. These jurisdictions, in their entirety, are classified as "rural areas" and qualify for the rural development programs of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The FCC designation of the capital cities of these jurisdictions as "urban" has prevented the HCPs in these remote, rural areas access to much needed services.

The FCC has recognized that its current regulations may disadvantage health care providers in the Pacific insular areas. In 2002, the FCC issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) to review the rural health care universal service support mechanism and requested comments how to address this issue. Comments submitted by the health care providers in Guam, American Samoa, the CNMI and telecommunications carriers that service

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

these jurisdictions, and by Federal agencies and other programs providing health services raised the need to redesignate their "urban area" to enable the maximum allowable distance to be based on their geographic location. The governments of these jurisdictions specifically requested that their urban area be re-designated to the closest urban area with advanced medical facilities. Honolulu, Hawaii is the closest urban area to each of these jurisdictions with advanced medical facilities as well as an accredited medical school. However, the FCC, in its recent Report and Order, indicated that it is beyond their statutory authority under 47 U.S.C. 254(h)(1)(A) to designate an urban area outside of a state, whose definition includes the territories and possessions, as the benchmark for comparison for the insular areas.

The residents of Guam, American Samoa, and the CNMI contribute to the Universal Service Fund and represent the types of communities that were envisioned to be served by the RHCP. The health care providers in the Pacific insular areas are in need of telecommunication connections with health care providers and with health professions education programs outside of their jurisdictions in order to obtain needed specialty services and access to advanced health professions education and continuing education programs. However, the current costs of these telecommunication connections are too high to make the connections feasible. The Rural Health Care Program, the program that was designed to serve rural communities and which would make such a critical difference in these jurisdictions, currently does not benefit those most in need.

In closing, I want to thank my colleagues, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ, and Mr. ABERCROMBIE for co-sponsoring this bill. I urge support for this legislation so that we may provide for fair treatment of the Pacific insular areas in the health care service supports under the Communications Act of 1934. Designating Honolulu, Hawaii as the "urban area" for Guam, American Samoa, and the CNMI is the most logical, sensible, and possible approach to resolve the deficiencies in the implementation of the RHCP for these jurisdictions. I look forward to working with the leadership in moving this legislation.

IN MEMORY OF SANDY ELSTER

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 30, 2004

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to say goodbye to a dear friend and neighbor.

Earlier this week, I received news that local activist and businessman Sandy Elster passed away at his Venice, California home at age 86.

Sandy was a true progressive, who cared intensely about policy. He volunteered for my first congressional campaign and was generous with both his time and ideas. He was unafraid to speak out, whether he agreed or not with my positions. Indeed, I know that many of my views were shaped by the discussions we had during our bike rides and brunches along our coastal bike path.

Sandy was known, in particular, for his environmental activism. In recent years, he was a consultant to the Metropolitan Transit Authority to develop a non-polluting, mass transit system. He drove one of the first electric cars, the EV-1, made by General Motors, and later became an advocate for the hybrid Toyota Prius and persuaded his friends to buy it.

Sandy also led local efforts to protect the California least tern, a small gray and white seabird that was added to the endangered species list in the mid-1970s. After moving to Venice in the early 1970s, he helped cut through red tape to erect a fence around a plot of sand about half the size of a football field to keep dogs, cats and other predators away from tern eggs and chicks. Today, the least tern population is stable and growing because of his stewardship.

I know that one of his proudest accomplishments was seeing then-President Ronald Reagan sign the U.N. Genocide Convention—an agreement whose ratification he spent many years working to secure. But beyond making genocide a crime under international law, he believed it important that our citizens know the horror of genocide, its roots, and the need for vigilance. During the 1980s, he was instrumental in the campaign that resulted in legislation to require California's public schools to teach about genocide to students in seventh through 12th grade.

It's emblematic of Sandy's active life that the service to his memory was held at the Beverly Hills Tennis Club. He was an avid tennis player and biker, and I found it challenging to keep up with him.

My thoughts are with his spectacular wife and partner of 56 years, Ernestine, and his family. Sandy was very special.

HONORING DR. JOE SABOL

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 30, 2004

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Representative DOOLEY, Representative NUNES and myself, to honor Dr. Joe Sabol on the occasion of his being distinguished as an Honorary Alumni Member of the California Agricultural Leadership Foundation's California Agricultural Leadership Program. This designation will be bestowed upon Mr. Sabol at the annual conference of this organization.

Selection for this distinction is reserved for "special individuals who have, over a period of time, demonstrated consistent commitment and uncommon excellence in the furtherance of education and leadership in California agriculture." The mission of the California Agricultural Leadership Program is to enhance the long-term viability of California agriculture through leadership development, which in turn benefits the people and the communities that agriculture serves.

In 1963, Joe received his Bachelor of Arts degree in General Agriculture from California State University, Fresno. He obtained his M.Ed. in 1965 from University of California, Davis and his Ph.D. in 1976 from Colorado State University. Dr. Sabol came to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in 1972 to teach Agricultural Education. He later became Associate Dean

and the Dean of the College of Agriculture, as well as Project Director of the Costa Rica E.A.R.T.H. Project. He was named Director of Outreach Services in 1993 and currently teaches within the College. Among his special teaching projects Joe counts the Mexican Ag Education Program, the Pakistan Project, an Advisor's Workshop for Vocational Student Organizations, and the Victorian (Australia) College of Agriculture and Horticulture.

Joe has been involved with the Western Region American Association of Teacher Educators in Agriculture, the FFA Alumni Association, Farm Bureau, the San Jose Unified School District Agriculture Program, and the California Agriculture Teachers Association. He has been named an honorary CFFA Member, Honorary State Farmer with FFA and Grange Youth Booster of the Year for California. In 1987, Joe received the Honorary American Farmer Degree at the National FFA Convention and has been recognized as a "Teacher of Teachers" for 10 consecutive years.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with Representative DOOLEY and Representative NUNES, to pay tribute to Dr. Joe Sabol as an Honorary Alumni Member of the California Agricultural Leadership Foundation's California Agricultural Leadership Program. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Joe many years of continued success.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to show my support for House Resolution 492, honoring the contributions of the 8,000 Catholic schools in our nation.

I would also like to recognize the delegation of students, teachers, and parents who make the National Appreciation Day for Catholic Schools a special day by visiting Capitol Hill offices throughout this day. Their commitment to creating exceptional education opportunities and maintaining quality Catholic schools ensures that Catholic students will continue to benefit from their schooling for years to come. When the 2.5 million students currently enrolled in Catholic schools graduate, an overwhelming percentage of them will attend college. This is a clear sign of the powerful and positive impact Catholic schools are having on millions of our nation's children.

I am a proud graduate of Catholic schools and have a first hand knowledge of the important role Catholic schools can play in the formation of hard-working, caring, and well educated Americans by teaching discipline, pride, and instilling a life-long love of learning in their students. I am so grateful to the priests, nuns and lay persons who taught me at St. Peter's Elementary, Holy Name Elementary, Parmadale, St. Aloysius Elementary, St. Colman Elementary and St. John Cantius High School. Their thirst for knowledge and desire to share it with others has played a critical role in my own life.

Providing quality educational opportunities for all children is one of the most important